



Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 15th, 2018

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Woodridge Apartments

Purpose: Monthly General Meeting - Daytime

Call to order 10:35 AM

Guest Speakers on Smoke Free Housing-Anna Hudson, Olmsted County Public Health Services; Kelly McIntee, American Lung Association and Natasha Phelps, Public Health Law Center

- Kelly from ALA
 - Program overview, why have smoke free (SF)
 - 65% of air in multifamily buildings is shared
 - SF increases market advantages, reduced cleaning, reduced fire damage/deaths, reduced legal liability, reduced number of smoke complaints
 - Costs of turns: no smoking=\$560, light smoking=\$1810, heavy smoking=\$3515
 - In Mankato, 85% multifamily are SF
 - Cessation resources
 - Tenant survey supports SF-71% make home SF no matter building's policy, 74% prefer SF over smoking buildings, 93% want disclosure if not SF during leasing process
 - Resources: signs, policies, cessation plans, brochures, folders
 - Takes 27 attempts to quit smoking
 - Kelly will send Heather PDFs of documents to pass along to RMHA members
- Natasha from PHLC
 - Legality of SF
 - PHLC is a non-profit. Can help support in law suit but not direct represent
 - Smoking is not constitutionally protected at state or federal levels
 - Smokers are not a protected class
 - Nicotine addiction is not a recognized
 - More legal risks for allowing smoking
 - SF lease addendum – can't ban religious purposes smoke. It is a non-commercial cigarette. i.e. Native American culture
 - Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act
 - HUD rule-prohibits smoking in public housing scatter sites and multifamily inside buildings and 25 feet from buildings
 - Natasha recommends you include e-cigarettes in SF policy. PHLC can help with policy wording, etc.
 - Preparing your SF policy, enforcement. Make sure SF addendum have clear repercussions, what is evidence, lease violation, how document it and what to look for
- Questions from the group
 - E cigs: signs of nicotine in apartment or see someone, consistent smell, smoke free campus-easier/simpler to enforce
 - Medical marijuana: state law oil or vap, legal, illegal drugs different
 - Reasonable accommodation: federal government says not a reasonable request, doctor doesn't prescribe nicotine to treat anything

- If addiction becomes protected class: talk of it but no changes right now and wouldn't foresee nicotine addiction being included if did
- Court cases: smoking in unit, SF addendum language not guaranteeing SF

Calendar

- Next general meeting – RMHA Fall Conference September 19th, 2018 at Kahler Apache. Early registration due by 8/31 to save money
- Elections in November for executive board
 - Time commitments
 - Email RMHA or Heather if interested in being on exec board

Adjournment-11:35 am